

Camera Craft

Camera Craft has brought to light many fine nature studies and subjects; but latterly members have been submitting prints without notes, which always enhance the value of illustrations. One was received without even the photographer's name. The subject was a fine group of Magpies at Belltrees, N.S.W. (See *Emu*, ante, plate 48). The picture was attributed to Mr. H. L. White, instead of to Mr. Sid. W. Jackson. We regret the mistake. Mr. Jackson's pictures are always welcome.

Nest of Pink-Breasted Robins—Hearing the distressed cries of a Robin, and the jubilant calls of a Shrike Thrush (*Colluricincla harmonica selbii*), I proceeded to the spot, and saw the latter fly from the Robin's nest. Carefully lowering the stick I found the two eggs just smashed, as per photo.—third egg being untouched.—Miss J. A. FLETCHER, R.A.O.U., Woodbridge, Tas.

Photographing the Dotterel.—Early in Oct., 1921, I watched, with Mr. Littlejohns, a pair of Black-fronted Dotterels (*Charadrius melanops*) on a stretch of pebbles at Bendigo, and eventually discovered two young birds. I visited the locality again on 22nd October, and, after a long wait, observed an adult Dotterel near a small pond.

When I approached she became very excited and tried to lead me away, but she became quiet when I pretended to follow; so I felt sure her chick was very near. At length I found the little chap, which, from its size, I judged to be not more than 24 hours out of the egg.

I placed him in the sun, set up the camera two feet away, attached 12 feet of cotton to the shutter and waited for the female to approach. When at last she did, I released the shutter, but, unfortunately, she was too far away to be in focus, and, in addition, was nearly out of the picture. I tried again, but this time she kept away and made sounds like a fly in a match-box. The young one replied in the same way, and, to my surprise, and annoyance stood up and ran after its mother. I had thought it too young and too frightened to move. It looked very funny as it ran off and flattened itself out when I chased it. This sort of thing occurred several times.

When the female bird found that the youngster responded to her calls she kept further away, so I wrapped the young bird in a piece of paper, placed it beneath the camera, and focussed on a spot about 18 inches away. This time the mother came closer, and I was able to expose another plate.

During September and October of the present year I found the Black-fronted Dotterel again nesting freely along the Bendigo Creek. The Red-kneed Dotterel (*Erythronyx cinctus*) was there also, and a few nests were found. Photography was a much more simple business at nests of eggs than with the young birds the previous year, and I was able to obtain pictures of both species.

—MARC COHEN, R.A.O.U., Bendigo, Vic.